



**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000**

9/3/19

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On February 15, 2019, the President issued a proclamation declaring that a national emergency exists along the southern border of the United States that requires the use of the armed forces. In order to provide additional authority to the Department of Defense as part of the Federal Government's response to this national emergency, the President further made available, in accordance with Section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), the authority provided in Section 2808 of Title 10, U.S. Code.

Based on analysis and advice from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and input from the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of the Interior and pursuant to the authority granted to me in Section 2808, I have determined that 11 military construction projects along the international border with Mexico, with an estimated total cost of \$3.6 billion, are necessary to support the use of the armed forces in connection with the national emergency. These projects will deter illegal entry, increase the vanishing time of those illegally crossing the border, and channel migrants to ports of entry. They will reduce the demand for DoD personnel and assets at the locations where the barriers are constructed and allow the redeployment of DoD personnel and assets to other high-traffic areas on the border without barriers. In short, these barriers will allow DoD to provide support to DHS more efficiently and effectively. In this respect, the contemplated construction projects are force multipliers.

Accordingly, I have authorized and directed the Acting Secretary of the Army to undertake these 11 projects expeditiously, and, as authorized by Section 2808, to do so without regard to any other provision of law that may impede the expeditious construction of such projects in response to the national emergency. A description of and the estimated cost for each project, including the cost of any associated real estate actions, can be found in the enclosure.

I have further authorized and directed the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer to ensure that up to \$3.6 billion in unobligated military construction funds are available for the purpose of undertaking the specified military construction projects. The funds being made available are associated only with deferred military construction projects that are not scheduled for award until fiscal year 2020 or later and do not include any family housing, barracks, or dormitory projects. Furthermore, I have directed the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to prioritize deferred military construction projects such that, initially, only funds associated with deferred military construction projects outside of the United States will be made available to the Department of the Army. This will

provide for approximately \$1.8 billion of the required funds. The remaining \$1.8 billion associated with deferred military construction projects located in the United States (including U.S. territories) will be made available to the Secretary of the Army when it is needed for obligation. My intent in prioritizing funds in this manner is to provide time to work with you to determine opportunities to restore funds for these important military construction projects as well as to work with our allies and partners in improving cost burden sharing for the overseas construction projects.

I am sending an identical letter to the other Congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt T. Espen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" being the most prominent.

Enclosure:

As stated

cc:

The Honorable William M. "Mac" Thornberry
Ranking Member

List of Military Construction Projects

Yuma Project 2 (\$40M): Replacement of one segment of primary pedestrian fencing on the Barry M. Goldwater Range starting 2.5 miles east of Border Monument 198 and extending east to Border Monument 297, for a total of approximately 1.5-2 miles.

Yuma Project 10/27 (\$527M): Construction of approximately 31 miles of a new secondary pedestrian fence system on the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

Yuma Project 3 (\$630M): Replacement of 31 miles of vehicle barriers with new pedestrian fencing, beginning approximately 0.4 miles east of the Barry M. Goldwater Range and continuing for approximately 31 miles east through the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Yuma County.

San Diego Project 4 (\$67M): Construction of 1.5 miles of a new primary pedestrian fence system starting 3.6 miles east of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE), extending east, and construction of 2 miles of a new secondary pedestrian fence system starting 3.6 miles east of the Otay Mesa POE, extending east.

Yuma Project 6 (\$65M): Construction of approximately 1 mile of a new primary pedestrian fence system starting at Andrade POE and extending a half mile west of monument marker 206, then resuming east of the Colorado River and extending south one mile; and construction of 2 miles of a new secondary pedestrian fence system starting a half mile east of monument marker 208 and extending east to the Colorado River, and then resuming on the east side of the Colorado river and extending south for approximately one mile.

El Paso Project 2 (\$476M): Replacement of 23.51 miles of vehicle barriers with new pedestrian fencing in noncontiguous segments within Hidalgo and Luna Counties, New Mexico.

- The first segment begins approximately 5.1 miles east of the New Mexico/Arizona Border, continuing east for 4.55 miles.
- The second segment begins approximately 3 miles west of the Antelope Wells POE to 3 miles east of the POE for 6.12 miles.
- The third segment begins approximately 20 miles west of the Columbus POE, extending west for 12.84 miles.

El Paso Project 8 (\$164M): Construction of approximately 6 miles of a new primary pedestrian fence system in place of existing vehicle barriers starting 1.5 miles west of monument marker 64 and extending 2 miles east of monument marker 63; and construction of approximately 6 miles of a new secondary pedestrian fence system starting 1.5 miles west of monument marker 64 and extending 2 miles east of monument marker 63.

San Diego Project 11 (\$57M): Construction of approximately 3 miles of a new secondary pedestrian fence system starting 2 miles west of the Tecate POE and extending to 1.5 miles east of the Tecate POE.

El Centro Project 5 (\$20M): Construction of approximately 1 mile of a new secondary pedestrian fence system starting 0.5 mile west of the Calexico West POE, extending 1 mile east of the Calexico West POE.

Laredo Project 7 (\$1,268M): Construction of approximately 52 miles of a new primary pedestrian fence system starting from the Laredo-Columbia Solidarity POE North West for approximately 52 miles along the Rio-Grande River.

El Centro Project 9 (\$286M): Construction of approximately 12 miles of a new secondary pedestrian fence system, starting 1.5 miles west of monument marker 223 and ending at monument marker 221, and resuming 1 mile east of the Calexico West POE and extending east for 3 miles.

Enclosure

